

MEETING MINUTES

Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts

November 14, 2017

300 Sower Blvd. Room 216

In Attendance: Mr. David Rowlett, President; Mr. Allan Bryant, Secretary-Treasurer; Mr. Steve Coleman; Mr. Ted Jessup; Mr. Rodney Dick; Mr. Orville Bennett; and Mr. Kevin Jeffries.

Also in Attendance: Mr. Charles Snavely, Secretary of Energy and Environment Cabinet; Mr. John Small, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources; Ms. Kim Richardson, Director, Division of Conservation; Ms. Johnna McHugh, Asst. Director, Division of Conservation; Ms. Amanda Moore, Acting State Conservationist and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); Mr. Brent Burchett, Kentucky Department of Agriculture; Dr. Steve Higgins, University of Kentucky; and Mr. Jeff Gravitt, Division of Conservation.

Quorum was met.

Meeting Called to Order - at 9:33 am by KACD President Mr. David Rowlett.

KACD Minutes of the Last Meeting – September 21, 2017 –Mr. Steve Coleman made a motion to approve minutes. Mr. Allan Bryant seconded the motion to approve. **Motion carried.**

Treasurer's Report - Mr. Allan Bryant presented the KACD Budget with copies handed out.

- Mr. Allan Bryant informed the board that the KACD account had a beginning balance of \$105,787.09 and an ending balance of \$100,379.96. Mr. Allan Bryant made motion to approve the report. Mr. Kevin Jeffries seconded the motion. **Motion carried.**
- Mr. Allan Bryant asked the board to pay Ms. Terri Shaw in the amount of \$595.00 for services rendered for book keeping. Mr. Allan Bryant made a motion to approve and motion was seconded by Mr. Rodney Dick. **Motion carried.**
- Mr. David Rowlett discussed paying the NACD dues in the amount of \$1,000.00. Mr. Steve Coleman made a motion to approve, and motion was seconded by Mr. Kevin Jeffries. **Motion carried.**

Correspondence – Mr. David Rowlett discussed the following with the board:

- The Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation will be holding its 98th annual meeting on November 29 through December 2 at the Galt House Hotel and Suites in Louisville, Kentucky.

NACD Director's Report – Mr. Kevin Jeffries updated the board on the following items:

- Lack of progress in Washington, DC on appointments.
- Priorities of the NACD 2018 Government Affair from the Legislative Committee.
- The USDA reorganization.
- Boot camp training dates for 2018.
- Bylaw amendments are due by Nov. 27 and resolutions are due by Dec. 27. All forms are to be turned into Ms. Debra Bogar.
- NACD first time convention scholarships are still available.
- Mr. Kevin Jeffries asked the board to approve the purchase of an auction item for the convention in the amount of \$500.00. Mr. David Rowlett to follow up with the purchase. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Steve Coleman and was seconded by Mr. Kevin Jeffries. **Motion Carried.**
- NACD Technical Assistance Grants to districts need to have paperwork completed and filed by November 27.
- Early bird registration for annual NACD meeting ends December 15th.

KACD Auxiliary Report – Mr. David Rowlett update the board for Ms. Ava Adams on the following items:

- Progress on 2018 Convention auction and ticket sales.

2018 Legislative Reception – Mr. David Rowlett then turned the discussion over to Ms. Kim Richardson who updated the board on the following:

- Buffalo Trace as being the site of the 2018 Legislative Reception.
- Mr. Steve Coleman made a motion to approve All the Way Shoppe as the catering service for the Legislative Reception and Mr. Allan Brant seconded motion. **Motion carried.**

Partnership Survey Update – Mr. Steve Coleman discussed the KACD Collaboration Survey Project with copies being handed out. A total of 412 surveys were completed and deadline was extended for submission until the end of November.

2018 NACD Meeting- Nashville, TN – January 27-31, 2018 – Mr. David Rowlett discussed the registration fee of \$460.00 and the December 15, 2018 cutoff date for the NACD Meeting.

Division of Conservation Report – Ms. Kim Richardson discussed the following with the board:

- Convention proposals in:
 - Bowling Green at the Holiday Inn University Plaza.
 - Lexington at the Embassy Suites.
 - Lexington at the Clarion Hotel
 - Lexington at the Griffin Gate Marriott Resort and Spa
 - Louisville at the Crowne Plaza Louisville
 - Louisville at the Marriott Downtown
 - Louisville at the Galt House Hotel.
 - Louisville at the Omni Hotels and Resorts

The board narrowed down the selections to the Holiday Inn in Bowling Green and the Griffin Gate in Lexington. Mr. Steve Coleman made a motion that the executive committee will make the choice and was seconded by Mr. Rodney Dick. **Motion carried.** Ms. Kim Richardson will reach out to the hotels to make similar deals.

- Envirothon – Ms. Johnna McHugh discussed the following tentative locations:
 - Two days of training to be held in Henry County with the second being Green County.
 - Warren County and Laurel County as being the locations for the Envirothon competition.

Agency Comment

Natural Resources Conservation Service – Ms. Amanda Moore discussed the USDA reorganization and gave this update:

- We are still waiting for Bill Northey to be confirmed as the Under Secretary for the new Farm Production and Conservation Mission Area. Meanwhile, the formation of the new FPAC Business Center has been announced. The FPAC Business Center will provide administrative services including HR, procurement, grants and agreements, leasing, fleet management, financial management, budget planning/execution, etc., as well as operational services including strategic planning, public affairs, legislative affairs, performance management, etc., to NRCS, FSA and the Risk Management Agency. These functions are being moved from the agencies to the FPAC mission area. Senior staff have been identified to develop and implement the new Business Center. It remains to be seen what the impacts of this change will be.

In addition, multi-agency groups are working to address a variety of issues at the request of the Secretary. Those include:

- Office Space/Leasing; Fleet Management; and Workload Based Staffing. With regard to office space, the agencies are evaluating instances where NRCS and FSA are not collocated. In addition, there may be concern over NRCS paying for office space for conservation districts. Individual agency fleets will be combined into a single FPAC fleet and the number of vehicles is being reduced. KY lost 30 vehicles through this process. We are evaluating vehicle locations and working to redistribute as needed within KY; going forward, offices may no longer have assigned vehicles for staff or a vehicle for every staff person. Staff will need to schedule use of vehicles and also prioritize vehicle usage. NRCS NHQ is working on a national workload analysis that will be used to allocate staff if a FTE cap is imposed. The short term WLA is based on workload associated with Conservation Planning (40%), Practice Implementation (EQIP, CSP, CRP – 45%), Conservation Compliance, Easement Monitoring, and Watershed Dam O&M (combined, 15%). The longer term WLA will combine workload with the time it takes to complete tasks for a more robust view
- **Department for Natural Resources** – Mr. Charles Snavely discussed the following with the board:
 - Decrease in DNR general funding.
 - Releasing Direct Aid Funding with a 20% reduction to conservation districts.
 - Technical Assistant positions available across the state.
 - 17% cut in current budget and discussed possible percentage for upcoming year.
 - General Funds continue to be reduced.
 - Deciding on what services are going to be offered by Department for Natural Resources.
 - Possible transition to a 401K plan for retirement.
- **Farm Service Agency** – No report given
- **University of Kentucky** – Dr. Steve Higgins discussed and updated the board on current projects and upcoming events.
- **Kentucky Department of Agriculture** – No report given.

- **Division of Forestry** – Mr. John Small discussed the following with the board:
 - General Fund cuts.
 - How the Division can become more efficient with its resources.
 - Suspension of the White Oak Program due to the current supply being exhausted.
 - Low activity in forest fires this year.
 - Strong law enforcement in dealing with arsonists.
 - Division of Forestry helping out a total of seven states this year.

Adjournment – 12:43 PM

Next Board Meeting – 2018 Meeting Schedule: 3rd Thursday 9:30 AM

- January 11, 2018 (Joint Meeting with SWCC)
- March 15, 2018
- July 8-10, 2018 – KACD Convention
- September 20, 2018
- November 15, 2018